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27 July 1995

Memo for the Record

Subject: 17 July, 1995 Meeting with ARRB staff re FBI documents on Gibson

Attendees: Jeremy Gunn
Phil Golrick
Joan Zimmerman
Bill McNair
Ellie Neiman
Barry Harrelson

Purpose: To provide the ARRB with justification for continued postponement of information on Gibson's relationship with the CIA.

Bill McNair briefed the ARRB staff members on the current status of Richard Gibson including the Agency's meeting with Gibson earlier this year. They were told that despite the inadvertent release of his name and being contacted by journalist, Gibson was still denying his agency relationship and has requested that no more information be released.

Gunn pointed out that Gibson was an important JFK figure and that the ARRB would lean toward disclosure. We responded that the Agency had no problem with the release of Gibson information that did not indicate a relationship with the Agency. Since the agency did not target him for recruitment until 1964 and he not come to work for the Agency until 1965, most of the information of his activities during 61-63 is releasable. We showed them re-reviewed copies of the documents that release much more information than had been released in the copies they received from the FBI.

Bill talked at length about the need to protect sources and the potential impact on Agency operations as well as the risk to the individual. We also stressed the point that an inadvertent release, a mistake by reviewers or comments by former employees did not constitute official acknowledgment or mean that there was no longer a need to protect an individual.

We agreed to provide by the end of the day re-reviewed copies of the 7 documents in question. The highlighting would reflect the agency's policy of continuing to protect Gibson's relationship with the CIA.

Note: per phone call with Gunn (20 July), the Board did not address the Gibson documents in the 18 July meeting.

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Barry